

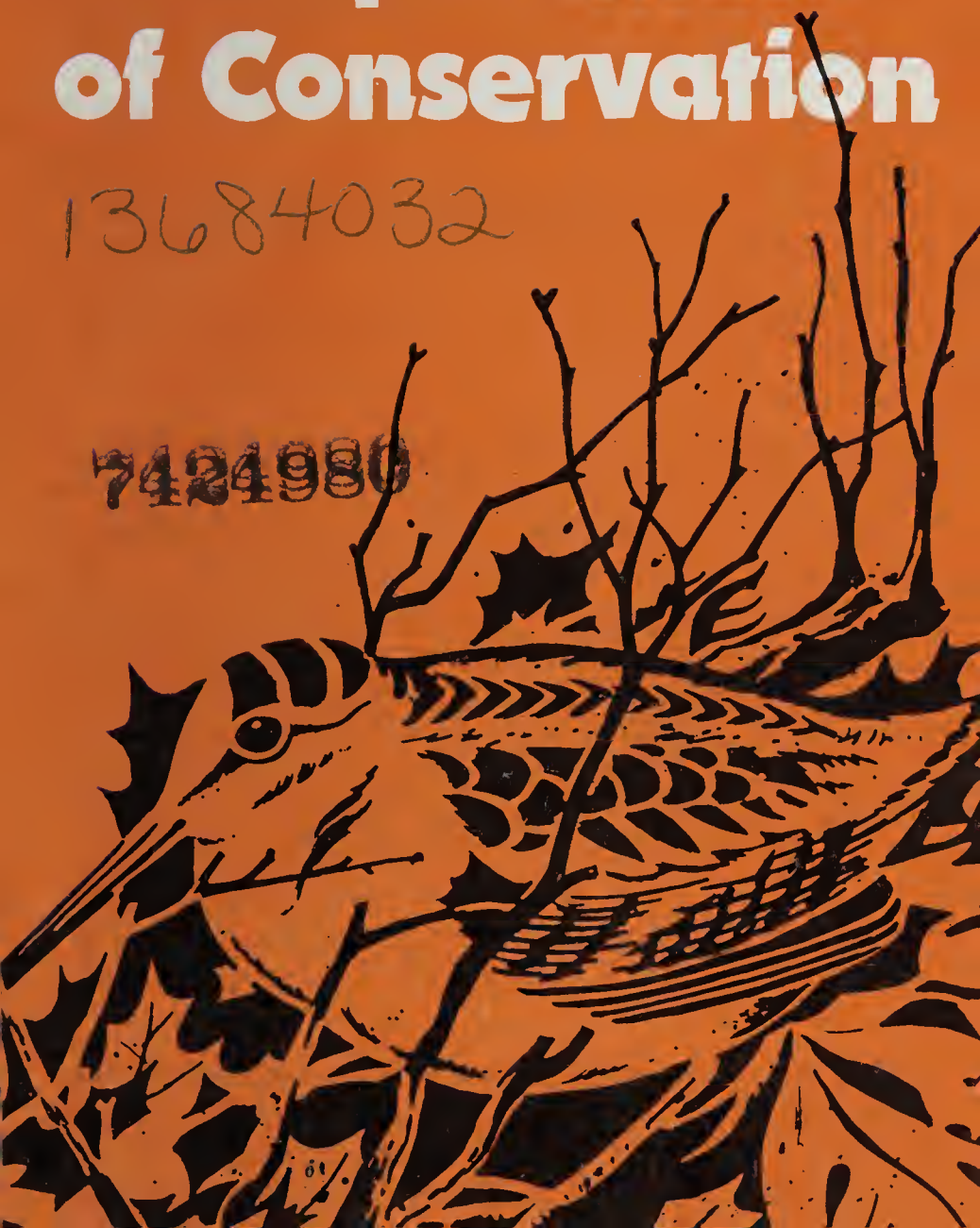
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Let's look at the Illinois Department of Conservation

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INTRODUCTION



The Illinois Department of Conservation's primary responsibility is to conserve Illinois' natural and cultural resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The Department is the largest land management agency in Illinois, administering more than 277,000 acres of land. Consequently, the Department serves as a major provider of outdoor recreational opportunities and as the source of information regarding these opportunities to the people of the state. The Department strives to utilize Illinois' resources to promote harmony between protecting the environment and insuring a quality recreational experience for the visitor.

These goals are attained by the cooperative efforts of the various divisions within the Department.

FIELD DIVISIONS

The people in these divisions are the ones the public is most likely to meet, whether at a state facility or at an exhibit at a local fair.

PARKS AND MEMORIALS

Working in conjunction with other divisions, Parks and Memorials is responsible for the management, maintenance and development of land entrusted to

its care. The division operates over 120 sites that are visited by over 25 million people a year.

As both the stresses of life and the availability of leisure time increases, more people than ever before are turning to outdoor recreation as a form of relaxation and "getting away from it all."

The division's goal is not only to provide relaxation opportunities but also to relate people to their environment.

The program services section accomplishes this through a program of planned activities and informal interpretive experiences at various sites. The section is also involved in portraying the cultural and historical facets of the major sites through special events and visitor's centers.



FISHERIES

Fishing results in many Illinois lakes and ponds have improved greatly as a result of the efforts of the fish biologists working throughout the state. Responsible for both sport and commercial fishing in Illinois, the division also develops Department-owned conservation lakes, acquires access areas to fishing waters and cooperates with other private and governmental agencies in water resources





development and research. Intensive management practices have increased production of usable fish, newly created waters have been stocked and new species have been introduced.

For the past several years, the division has annually averaged over 1,100 investigations, including lake and stream surveys, fish rehabilitation jobs, pollution fish kill surveys and aquatic weed control operations.

FORESTRY

The Forestry Division manages five state forests and two state forest nurseries that produce seven million trees a year. The division is concerned with the management of trees for optimum timber production, soil and water stabilization, improvement of wildlife habitat and recreational and aesthetic values.

While forest fire prevention and protection are widely publicized activities, forest management advice to private landowners and timber marketing advice to woodland owners and processors are less well known services. Also included in a forester's job is a continuing search for the "biggest tree" in Illinois, encouraging Arbor Day celebrations and preserving trees from insect and disease problems.



WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Illinois wildlife populations reflect the changes in the environment which are brought about by intensive farming, urbanization and industrialization. Through the division's efforts, however, species which were extinct in Illinois in the early 1900's — such as deer, wild turkey, grouse and beaver — have been re-established.

Wildlife Resources works with landowners and provides advice on how to increase wildlife populations by improving cover conditions without decreasing crop production. Another function of the division is the breeding and distribution of pheasant, quail and other wildlife for release on private and public lands. Farmer-sportsman clubs and organizations are also provided pheasant and quail chicks which are reared by the club members and released.



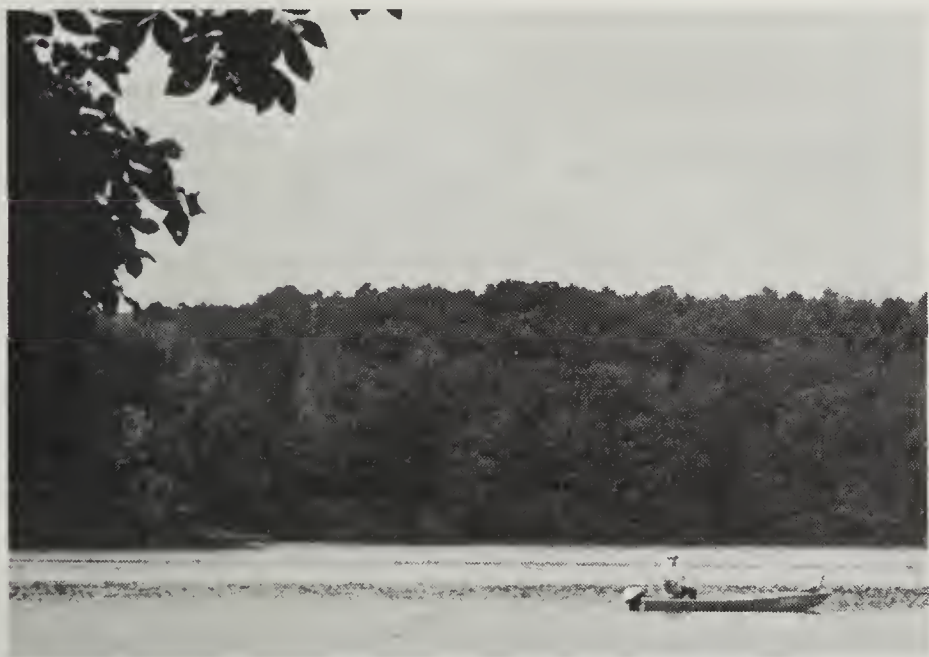
LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Illinois Conservation Police Officer, once called a Game Warden, has assumed a highly diversified role in the Department which goes far beyond the traditional enforcement of hunting and fishing laws. While the officers do arrest many people for violation of the various conservation laws, they also provide services of an educational and safety nature as well. Searches for lost persons and water accident victims, crowd handling at special events, talks to various interested groups about the regulations they enforce, are among the many facets of the job which has these officers on a 24-hour-a-day call, seven days a week.

The division also conducts hunter and boat safety training programs and has prepared teaching aids and textbooks in these subjects for use in schools and colleges.

SERVICE DIVISIONS

With nearly 80% of the Department's personnel out in the field, a wide variety of technical support assistance is needed. The service divisions, headquartered in Springfield, handle various supporting roles from ordering supplies and equipment to coordinating and managing the overall operations.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The division, composed of accounting, budget, electronic data processing, federal aid, support services and information/education, is primarily concerned with the fiscal records, transactions and funding for the Department.

Informing the public of Department programs, policies and activities is the role of the information/education section. This task is performed through the use of brochures, news releases, a newsletter, radio, television and displays.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

A strong research and planning program in the Department of Conservation is necessary if Illinois is to provide quality outdoor recreation experiences now and in the future. The division's research program produces information necessary for the Department's planning and management decisions. Plans prepared provide guidance to the State and the Department in making decisions on the allocation of funds and other resources.





SITE PLANNING

The logical and orderly development of Department lands is the responsibility of the Site Planning Division. Not only are master site plans prepared to guide the development of the site, but feasibility studies are also prepared to justify the acquisition of major Department lands. The division is staffed by individuals trained in landscape architecture who strive to give identity and uniqueness to each site so the consequences of development to the environment are as slight as possible.

ENGINEERING

The objective of the Engineering Division is to provide specialized conservation engineering and architectural services that are concerned with the best utilization of the natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public, but are also compatible with environmental and recreational management practices. The division tries to solve conservation engineering problems by considering the biological, functional and aesthetic aspects throughout the various stages of project development, within economic feasibility.



GOAL

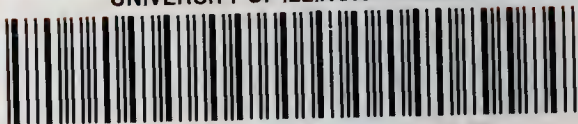
The Department of Conservation's goal is to preserve the best of Illinois' historical, cultural and natural resources as a symbol of our heritage for ourselves and for future generations, and to provide life enrichment opportunities for those who visit these areas.

To accomplish this goal, the understanding and support of the citizens of Illinois is needed.

For more information write the Department of Conservation, Information/Education Section, 605 State Office Building, Springfield, Illinois 62706.



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